

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2003

CONTACT: Israel Klein

or Joe Dalton (781) 396 2900

REP. MARKEY INTRODUCES RESOLUTION CELEBRATING PATRIOT'S DAY

Medford, MA: Rep. Edward J. Markey and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, with the support of the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation, last night introduced companion resolutions in both the House and the Senate calling on the nation to join Massachusetts in celebrating Patriot's Day. Reminding the nation of the extraordinary events of April 18-19, 1775, the lawmakers called on the nation to honor the first patriots who lost their lives in defense of liberty and freedom.

In his statement introducing the resolutions, Rep. Markey noted that when the President established a national day of remembrance for the victims of September 11, he named it "Patriot Day." "This has understandably confused some Americans regarding 'Patriot's Day' in April," said Markey, "and it is appropriate that we remind our fellow Americans of why there is, and will always be, a state holiday of enormous national significance that occurs every April."

The Resolution itself, which can be found at www.house.gov/markey, tells the story of Paul Revere's Ride and the Battle of Concord and Lexington, quoting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"Growing up in Massachusetts, or in the state of Maine – the only other state which officially recognizes Patriot's Day – children are constantly reminded of the sacrifice of the Minutemen who resisted tyranny by firing the shot heard 'round the world," Markey concluded. "Every April, the people of our state participate in parades, reenactments of Revere's ride, the attack and retreat of the British, and other civic activities. It was just a skirmish, but it was the spark that lit the fire of American freedom, and we are proud of our responsibility to preserve this pivotal moment as a living history for all Americans."

#